

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19918 221045Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2347
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAG: ABLD, AFSP, UR, US
SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS ON STATUS OF NEW CHANCERIES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 17303, (B) MOSCOW 17464, (C) STATE 308871,
(D) STATE 308872,

TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

1. OVER PAST TWO DAYS EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED BY BOTH MFA
AND UPDK REGARDING STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW CHANCERIES.

2. AT MFA RECEPTION USA DIVISION OFFICER SINITSYN TEMPORARILY
HANDLING CHANCERY NEGOTIATIONS IN ABSENCE OF HIS SUPERIOR
ANTIPOV, ASKED ADMIN OFFICER IF US SIDE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS
COST ESTIMATES. WHEN TOLD THAT EMBASSY AWAITED ESTIMATES FROM
UPDK ON PLANS SUBMITTED IN AUGUST, SINITSYN SAID THAT HE WOULD
CHECK INTO MATTER. HE THEN REPEATEDLY ASKED STATUS OF REPLY TO
AIDE-MEMOIRE SUBMITTED BY SOVIET SIDE NOVEMBER 3.

3. EMBASSY GSO WAS CALLED TO OFFICE OF UPDK CHIEF OF CAPITAL
CONSTRUCTION KULIKOV DECEMBER 21 OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS PROPOSED
DACHA COMPLEX AT NAKHABINA. WHILE SHOWN PLANS OF SITE AND ASKED
TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS EMBASSY VIEWS IN MID--JANUARY, GSO
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SPENT MOST OF MEETING DISCUSSING CHANCERY COMPLEX. SPECIFICALLY
KULIKOV OFFERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A) UPDK HAS BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS;
- B) SPECIFIC COST ESTIMATES CANNOT BE GIVEN UNTIL TECHNICAL DETAILS

OF PLANS ARE RECONCILED;

C) THE SITE HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR CONSTRUCTION;

D) PRELIMINARY SEWER CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN CUT TO THE SITE.

4. KULIKOV PROPOSED FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

A) MID JANUARY MEETING WITH EMOBOFFS TO DISCUSS NEW CHANCERY AND TO RECONCILE DETAILS ON PLANS;

B) FULL TEAM OF EXPERTS ARRIVE IN FEBRUARY FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS;

C) US SIDE BE PREPARED TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION EARLY 1978.

5. ON NEW SUBJECT, PRESENT DACHA, KULIKOV INDICATED THAT ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING WORK WOULD START IN 1977 TO UPGRADE FACILITIES IF WE WISHED TO INSTALL NEW FINNISH DACHA HOUSE.

6. UPDK CONSTRUCTION TEAM ARRIVED DECEMBER 21 TO COMMENCE WORK ON EXTENSION OF MEDICAL UNIT.

7. COMMENT: APPARENTLY SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING IN WASHINGTON WAS CORRECT BUTTON TO PUSH TO GET ACTION ON OUR LIST OF NEEDS. SINCE HARTMAN-KORNIYENKO MEETING SOVIETS HAVE BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING. DETAILED STATUS WILL FOLLOW SEPARATELY.

8. NOTWITHSTANDING EVIDENT PROGRESS, EMBASSY VIEWS WITH SKEPTICISM KULIKOV TIME SCHEDULE. WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS ON PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT EXPERT GUIDANCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERHAPS ARCHITECT COULD SCHEDULE SHORT VISIT LATE JANUARY TO SETTLE THESE QUESTIONS FIRST HAND. FYI: SINITSYN VISIBLY SUBDUED WHEN TOLD NO SPECIFIC TIME PLANNED FOR VISIT BY KNOOP. GIVEN PAST DIFFICULTIES RESOLVING PLAN VARIANTS, PROPOSED FEBRUARY VISIT OF "FULL TEAM OF EXPERTS" SLIGHTLY PREMATURE. HOWEVER, WE PASS IT ON AS EVIDENCE OF INTEREST ON PART OF SOVIETS.

9. WE INTEND PRESS FOR MORE SPECIFICS WHEN DELIVERING TEXT OF NOTE (REF D).
MATLOCK

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